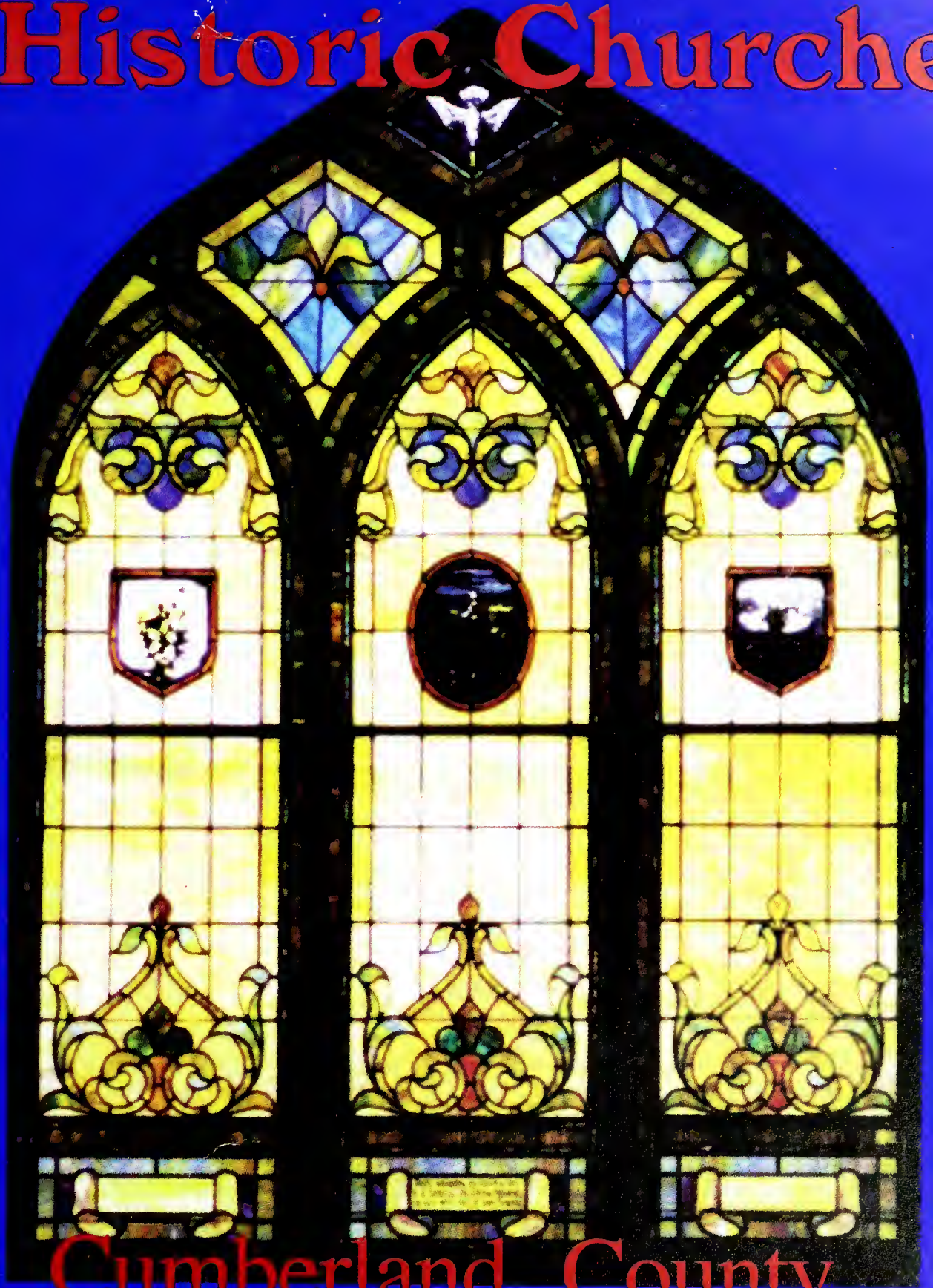


A Guide to Historic Churches



in Cumberland County



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Introduction

Church histories reflect the religious, social, economic, moral and educational life of a community. **A Guide to Historic Churches in Cumberland County** provides profiles of churches 100 years or older. This is not a complete listing of our county's historic churches, only those that chose to submit their history. Each church is responsible for the authenticity and content of their history.

Cumberland County's religious heritage reflects many cultures. This guide can be used as an aid in understanding different religious groups and cultures that have contributed to the rich heritage of this county. This publication will also assist our customers with homework assignments, genealogy and other research needs. The churches are listed in alphabetical order with a list of the churches by foundation dates at the end.

For a more detailed look at local church histories, visit the Local and State History Room at the Headquarters branch of the Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center.

Compiled by:

Arletha Campbell and Rhonda Williams
Local and State History
Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center
300 Maiden Lane
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301-5000
1999

Whitaker Library
Chowan University
Murfreesboro, North Carolina

Front Cover: Stained Glass Window of the First Baptist Church, 302 Moore Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina



**1700 Baywood Road
Fayetteville North Carolina 28301-9008
(910) 483-2916
(Founded in 1898)**

Baywood Pentecostal Holiness Church

(Formerly: Person Street Pentecostal Holiness Church)

Under the leadership of Mr. O. J. Owen in 1898 a small group of Christians assembled for Sunday School and prayer meeting in an upstairs room over the McKethan Drug store located on the corner of Person and Gillespie Streets across from the Market House in downtown Fayetteville. Apparently they continued to worship there until 1903 when they purchased property at Person and Broad Streets. The existing building on this property became the first Pentecostal Holiness Church in Fayetteville. The church was served by supply pastors until 1907 when the Rev. A. B. Crumpler (founder of the Holiness Movement of North Carolina) became the pastor. There have been thirty-seven pastors since that time.

In 1919 the old church, the former Campbellton Sunday School Building, was torn down and a new wooden building was erected. Years later the Broad Street Assembly Room was built and used for worship service until a new brick building was completed in 1952. As the Person Street Pentecostal Holiness Church progressed, many additions were made to the church and a new parsonage was built in 1956.

In 1992, the church membership voted to relocate to the intersection of Baywood and Murphy Roads and built a new place of worship. The congregation agreed to call the new church **Baywood Pentecostal Holiness Church** in June of 1994. It was incorporated by the State of North Carolina on November 14, 1994. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on January 1, 1995 and the first service was conducted in the new edifice on August 27, 1995.



*255 Vass Road
Spring Lake, North Carolina 28390
(910) 497-3445
(Founded in 1883)*

Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church

The Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church was founded in 1883 as a mission, known as the “**Little Ark.**” The late Jack Murchison built a bush shelter to preach to two neighboring plantations known as the McDermits and the Murchisons. A few years later a Presbyterian minister, who was establishing churches throughout the country, came along and preached at the “Little Ark” and established it as a Presbyterian church. During his two year absence, a Methodist minister came from Fayetteville and converted them to Methodism. Bethel was a circuit church for several years, but in 1931 it became a station church.

Under the leadership of Elder Barret land was purchased for the building of the first church and he also named the church **Bethel**. In 1919 the third church was started and was not completed until 1923, under the leadership of Rev. J. W. Hill. Bethel has continued to thrive with several different pastors. Improvements to the church include: a paved parking lot, remodeled annex, raised roof on the church, remodeled rest rooms and a ladies’ lounge, a new public address system, new walkways and landscaping, and the purchase of a new piano and Hammond organ. These improvements continue to grow with the tenure of Rev. Erskin Lowe at Bethel.



*Highway 301
Godwin, North Carolina 28344
(Founded 1876)*

Black's Chapel United Methodist Church

North of Godwin, North Carolina, stands Black's Chapel. This is the original building constructed in 1876–1877 with two additions: a steeple which was erected in 1914 and classrooms which were added in 1948.

Through the inspiration of Mr. Wiley T. Rhodes in 1865 a Methodist Church was built in Godwin. Black's Chapel was named after Reverend W. S. Black, presiding elder of the Wilmington District from 1874 to 1877. Founded in 1876, it was the first Methodist Church in northeastern Cumberland County. This structure later became a schoolhouse located a few hundred feet from the present structure.

Wiley Rhodes and William Culbreth, community leaders, saw a need for a suitable place of worship. They hired carpenters to build the church. Upon completion of the church, the carpenters locked the doors due to a lack of funds to pay the balance owed. William Culbreth helped raise funds to pay the balance. After a successful effort the balance was paid. The honor was bestowed on Mr. Culbreth of unlocking the doors and ringing the bell calling parishioners to worship. Since that time Black's Chapel has been an active congregation providing ministry to the Godwin community.



***P.O. Box 96
Wade, North Carolina 28395-0096
(910) 484-7867
(Founded in 1758)***

Bluff Presbyterian Church

(Old Bluff Presbyterian Church)

Long before America's proclamation of independence was heard, European settlers—mainly Scot Highlanders—took up residence in the Cape Fear River Valley. This bluff of land soon became a hallowed place where their fore-fathers would congregate to worship God, bury their dead, and converse with neighbors and strangers.

The Old Bluff Presbyterian Church was founded in 1758 by the Reverend James Campbell and is one of the oldest churches in the Upper Cape Fear Valley. For almost a century the religious services were conducted in the Gaelic language.

The first church completed was simple in design. It is constructed of hand-hewn timbers and put together with hand-made nails and wooden pegs. Inside you can view the pot-bellied stoves and unique gas light fixtures. A third sanctuary was completed in 1858. In 1974 Old Bluff was entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Old Bluff Church is no longer an organized entity with the Presbyterian Church. It was the “mother” church of Bluff Presbyterian, Godwin Presbyterian, and McMillan Presbyterian Churches. The living successor of the “Old” Bluff Presbyterian Church is the Bluff Presbyterian Church of Wade. The Old Bluff Presbyterian Church Trust continues the maintenance and improvement of the building, grounds, and cemetery. All three churches have a joint service annually at the Old Bluff Presbyterian Church on the fourth Sunday in September.



***4625 Camp Ground Road
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28314-1498
(910) 867-9436
(Founded in 1862)***

Camp Ground Methodist Church

Camp Ground Methodist Church was organized in 1862, just before the war between the states began. The Church is a monument to Methodism in the Seventy-First community. The building itself tells its history and of the old south in the years before the Civil War. The large white two-story frame building, which features the old slave gallery, stands just as it was completed a century ago. This building was planned and even under construction when the war began. The building was slowly completed during the darkest days of our nation's history. The people of the Camp Ground community did not lose faith. They never gave up hope and the building was completed.

Soon the members of Camp Ground realized that in order to minister to the needs of the congregation and the surrounding community, the services of a full-time pastor were needed. The Rev. James A. Auman, who had served as Charge Pastor for three years, was now its first full-time pastor.

In the sanctuary the pulpit was handmade by Mr. Ruffin Vaughn, brother of one of the founders and builders of Camp Ground. The floors and pews, all handmade, are of long leaf heart pine. The exquisite workmanship in the furniture and interior paneling of the Sanctuary denotes the love and sacrifice that went into the building of this ancient edifice.

Through the century many changes have come about, but the spiritual needs of the people are the same. Camp Ground foundation is built upon their strong faith and offer to the world Christ, who is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.



**6181 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311-7033
(910) 488-7033
(Founded in 1878)**

Cedar Falls Baptist Church

Cedar Falls Baptist Church is located one mile north of Methodist College. The church had its beginnings in 1878 as a result of a brush arbor revival conducted near Carver's Falls Road. It's physical structure consists of a chapel (former sanctuary), sanctuary, educational building, two kitchens and fellowship hall on 18 acres of land. The church has been remodeled many times. The last building project was dedicated on April 30, 1995.

One of the first pastors to serve at Cedar Falls was the Rev. J. M. Beasley, owner of a jewelry store in Fayetteville. During the period 1900 to 1912, three ministers, Rev. Wiley Page, Rev. Joe Johnson and Rev. Martin Page served the church as supply pastors.

Sunday School attendance averages well over 200. Music programs consist of handbell choirs, youth, children and adult choirs as well as vocal ensembles. On Thanksgiving many other churches in the community join Cedar Falls in Thanksgiving services.

Many support groups and seminars are offered to members and non-members. These include divorce care, nutrition and weight control through First Place, dealing with grief, bible study, and stress. Cedar Falls' senior citizens, who named their group **"K.I.T." (Keep in Touch)** are active in the church, community, and New South River Baptist Association. Youth and adults have taken many mission trips. The church entered into the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Cumberland County in 1995 to assist people in the area who have temporary emergencies. Members keep a food and clothing closet stocked for the needs of others.



**4514 Mill Street
Hope Mills, North Carolina 28348
(Founded in 1890)**

Cotton United Methodist Church

Cotton United Methodist Church was formed in 1890 as Hope Mills Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation originally met in the company store of Hope Mills Number Two, a local cotton mill. The church was part of the Cumberland Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church and their first minister was H. Mc. R. Jackson. Rev. J. D. Bundy became pastor in 1892.

The Hope Mills Manufacturing Company gave a tract of land to the congregation in February of 1893. The land was located on what is now the corner of Cameron Road and Mill Street. The deed stated that if the land should be used for any purpose other than as a place of worship, the mill would regain control of the land. The congregation built the wood frame sanctuary in the early 1890s.

Cotton Methodist Church has been remodeled twice, the first time in 1955. A wing of classrooms was added to the back of the sanctuary. The second time, the white frame church was bricked and a new steeple built. All construction other than laying of the brick was carried out by members of the congregation. The steeple was built and installed by Bob Johnson and Jim Johnson.

Over the years Cotton Methodist Church has organized many organizations such as the Women's Society of Christian Service, the Men's Club and a Methodist Youth Fellowship. Cotton United has a rich heritage. Their mission is to practice Christian love by enriching the spiritual life of the community, sharing Jesus' love, and reaching out to others.



**P. O. Box 144
Falcon, North Carolina
(910) 980-1296
(Founded in 1898)**

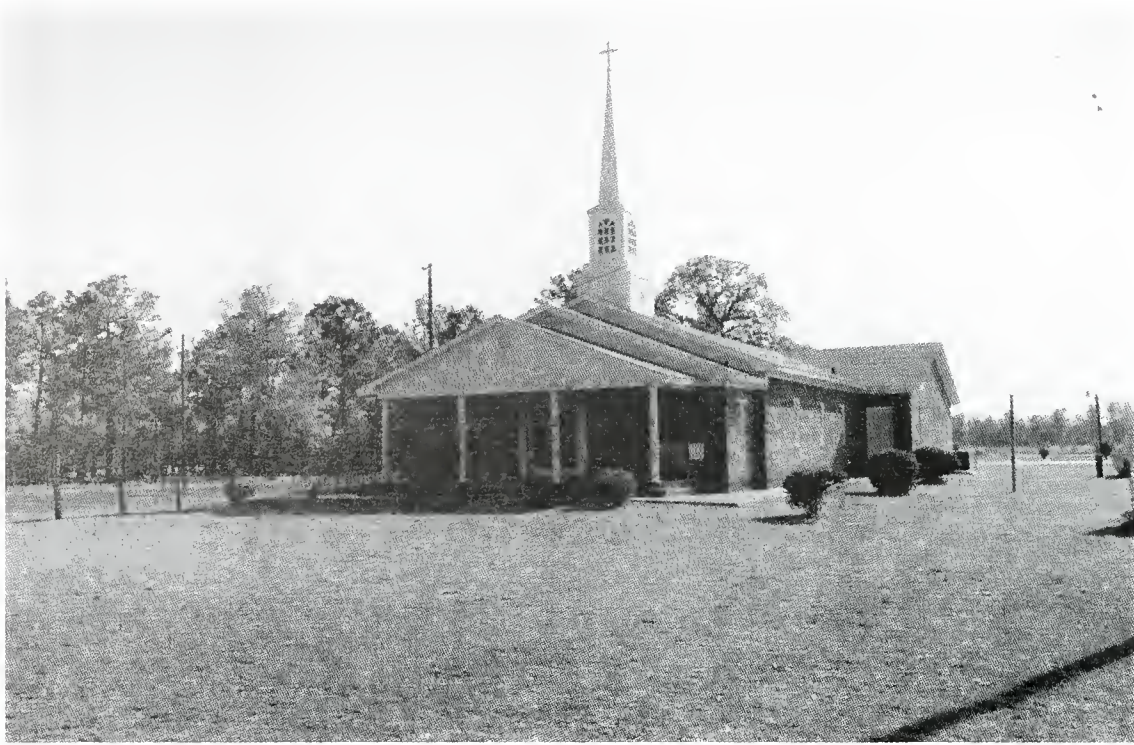
Culbreth Memorial Pentecostal Holiness Church

In 1898, Julius and Venie Culbreth has a great desire to do something for God. Their desire was realized after a storm that blew down many of the high pines in the area. Mr. Culbreth decided not to let them go to waste, but used them to build a church in the shape of a tent. Mr. Culbreth had a “**Little Tabernacle**” built to be used by the community as a place for prayer meetings. After the Falcon Camp Meeting began in 1900 and the doctrine of Holiness was established, the Falcon Holiness Church was organized and the Little Tabernacle was used for worship.

The present structure was completed early fall in 1952 and was built in front of the Little Tabernacle, incorporating it into the new structure. By unanimous agreement of the congregation, the name of the Falcon Pentecostal Holiness Church was officially changed to the **Culbreth Memorial Pentecostal Holiness Church** in memory of Julius A. Culbreth. It was dedicated and opened the first Sunday in October. Since that time, the first Sunday in October has been observed as Homecoming Day.

In 1981 a scholarship was established to assist children of parents at Culbreth Memorial Church who wish to further their education.

Many additions and improvements were made during 1952–1998. Beginning in 1907 and continuing until today, the church has supported foreign missions. Culbreth Memorial has exhibited a certain charm, simplicity, warmth, and dignity through the years. Although change and progress have taken place, the original mission of the church still exists today.



***P.O. Box 238
(W. Reeves Bridge Road)
Linden, North Carolina 28356-0238
(910) 497-4806
(Founded ca 1890)***

Cumberland Union Free Will Baptist Church

In the early 1890s the United American Free Will Baptist Church was born. This church began as a vision by a group of dedicated Christians who sought a place of worship. They purchased land in 1896 and built a church. Later it was renamed the Cumberland Union Free Will Baptist Church. The original structure was located across the road from the site of the present structure in Linden, N.C.

Cumberland Union Free Will Baptist Church has made many strides under the leadership of the Elder A. M. Matthews, the Reverend Lonnie Campbell, the Reverend David Elliott, and many others. Elder William Rudolph McKay became pastor in March 1998. Under his leadership several major church projects and renovations have been completed.

The members are active in organizations such as the Young People Christian League, Usher's Board, Mother's Board, the Senior and Junior Choir, the Young Adult Choir, the Male Choir, the Brotherhood, Florist Club, Deacon Board, Board of Trustees, and Home Mission.

Cumberland Union is a member of the "B" Conference and a member of the Lillington District Union. The church has grown spiritually and materially because of its strong leadership and loyal followers.



**301 North Cool Spring
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301-5137
(910) 483-2862
(Founded in 1796)**

Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church

The history of Methodism in Fayetteville is in direct parallel with Evans Metropolitan Church. Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church was founded in 1796 by the Rev. Henry Evans, the Father of Methodism in eastern North Carolina. Henry Evans, a black ordained preacher and a shoemaker by trade was a native Virginian. His remains lie entombed beneath the chancel of this church built on the original site in 1893.

The name of the church has changed over the years from the African Meeting House, where both African Americans and Caucasians worshiped together, to Evans Chapel and finally Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion.

Many changes have taken place over the years but the mission of the church has remained the same, that is, ***to be a beacon landmark that provides a place of worship, haven and an inspiration to all who come within the influence of its Christian services.***

The church edifice is a beautiful example of Gothic architecture. The woodwork of the interior, 16 panel v-joint ceiling and wainscoting, a balcony with turned posts and brackets all illustrate the superb craftsmanship of the artisans who erected the church. The exterior structure reflects the same captivating craftsmanship. The front of the building is characterized by a two-story gable front, two towers, pointed windows and at the center of the gable a projected leaning Holy Cross said to be indicative of Henry Evans' early struggle to found a church.

Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church is the oldest church in Fayetteville. On July 7, 1983, Evans Metropolitan Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places because of its historical and architectural significance.



***Cedar Creek Road (Highway 53)
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301
(910) 483-3822
(Founded in 1872)***

Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church

Falling Run Missionary was founded in 1872 by the Rev William Devane. Rev. Devane and The First Baptist Church of Fayetteville expressed the desire and need of a church in east Cumberland County. Rev. Devane with the assistance of the Rev. Ransom Royal were successful in their efforts. The first sanctuary was located near the east bank of the Cape Fear River about three miles from its present location.

Rev. Devane began immediately to minister to both the spiritual and intellectual needs of the people by preaching the gospel under a brush shelter built by the people of the community. Later a frame building was erected with a membership of only nine. Allen McDaniel and Washington Evans were the first deacons of the Church. The members have worshiped in several structures, but in 1959 the current structure was completed.

Under numerous leaders the church has made many improvements—installation of the air-conditioning unit, the purchase of a new piano, an addition of a large fellowship hall and Sunday School classrooms, the purchase of cemetery land, a baptistry with mural, an enlarged choir stand, and paving of the church parking lot.

Throughout its rich history, Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church has continued to move forward and strives to meet the varying needs of its membership in an ever-changing environment.



***201 Anderson Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301-5089
(910) 483-0477
(Founded in 1837)***

First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Fayetteville was constituted on November 25, 1837, with 28 charter members. Dr. David S. Williams and Dr. James McDaniel were the organizing ministers of this church. The one-room building was modified several times. Sunday School rooms were added. A pipe organ was installed and a tall steeple was erected. In 1906, the first church building was demolished. The present Romanesque brick structure was completed in May of 1910 under the leadership of Dr. J. J. Hall. Beautiful stained glass windows were installed in memory of some of the founding families.

On May 1, 1955, a new two-story educational building, which contains the library, gymnasium, choir room, church offices and classrooms was dedicated. The building was named in honor of the Building Chairman C. J. Williamson.

Rev. Glen Holt became pastor in 1969 and under his leadership a child-care center, ministry to the deaf, and a youth ministry were started. An extensive renovation program was approved in 1986 and was completed in 1987. The property was landscaped in 1991 for which the church received recognition from the Fayetteville Appearance Commission.

Throughout its rich history, First Baptist has continued to move forward and strives to meet the varying needs of a constantly changing membership in an ever-changing environment.



***302 Moore Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301-4934
(910) 483-6505
(Founded in 1868)***

First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church's history began in 1868 with a vision of a group of dedicated and consecrated Christians gathered in a small house surrounded by beautiful cedar trees.

With faith in Christ, they launched a great Missionary Movement for God. The result of their vision is First Baptist Church.

Early in 1877, the Church property was purchased on Franklin and Maxwell streets where a frame building was erected for the purpose of worship. This building was destroyed by fire shortly thereafter and a more substantial one was built. The Church is indebted to its many pastors since its beginning. Each has made a significant impact on its entire history.

Dedication services were held on May 12, 1963 for the present-day site on Moore Street. In 1973, as a part of the Church's outreach ministry, Topeka Heights—a low to moderate income housing complex—was opened. October 18, 1991 was groundbreaking for an 18 unit housing project for senior citizens, across the street (Moore) from the church. It is named “***Edwards’ Place***” in honor of Dr. C. R. Edwards, Pastor Emeritus. Many outreach ministries are available for all age groups, members and non-members. First Baptist's history is rich and its future is promising.



*Corner of Bow and Ann Streets
P.O. Box 569
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28302
(910) 483-0121
(Founded in 1800)*

First Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Scots had settled in what was to become the town of Fayetteville by the mid 1700s, but it was not until 1800 that a church was organized. In 1800, Rev. John Robinson organized First Presbyterian Church which was initially built in 1816. Today a portrait of Rev. John Robinson hangs in the Historical Room and a stone tablet commemorating him hangs in the vestibule of the Church. He is credited with being the first minister of First Presbyterian.

The church was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1831. Funds were raised to rebuild and a new bell was donated. The inscription in Latin reads: "I perished in the flames that 29th of May 1831. I arose from the ashes through the generosity of friends in the Second Presbyterian Church in Troy, New York."

The current structure was rebuilt on its original walls and dedicated in 1832, and is now listed in the National Register. Some of the new features were the portico, Fuller education extension, whale oil chandeliers that hang in the vestibule and second floor alcove, a Moeller organ, chimes and communion silver. The structure is also known for its magnificent steeple. On the grounds is a sundial that is an exact duplicate of a sundial in Sir Walter Scott's garden in England.

First Presbyterian has played a part in the formation of new congregations such as Rockfish, Highland, Spring Lake, and Village Presbyterian Churches, earning the name of ***"the mother church."***

Today the church is under the leadership of the Rev. John Coker, Jr. He is a vibrant force in the life of the church and the community.



**8800 Galatia Church Road
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28304-6116
(910) 867-0656
(Founded in 1825)**

Galatia Presbyterian Church

Galatia Presbyterian Church is located in the western section of Cumberland County in the Seventy-First community. Early farm families gathered to worship in a shelter or brush arbor in the late 1700s and early 1800s. According to the early records of the Presbyterian church it was in 1825 that Galatia Presbyterian Church was organized. The first structure was built with volunteer labor in 1825 near the present church with lumber from the native pine forests. Early ministers preached two sermons, one in English and one in Gaelic, the native language of these families from the Highlands of Scotland.

During the civil war valuable church records were destroyed. The elders and descendants of elders provided the necessary names, dates, and events when Rev. R. A. McLeod prepared the historical sketch of Galatia Presbyterian Church on the 100th anniversary in 1925.

The enterprising Scottish folks held "Ingatherings" during the great depression to raise funds to meet the budget. Ladies sold quilts, spreads, cakes and anything else that would sell to raise funds.

In 1966, the Galatia Presbyterian Church was honored by the North Carolina State Grange as "The Rural Church of the Year." On the fourth Sunday in October of 1999, Galatia will celebrate its 174th Homecoming.



***Route 1, Box 459
(Beard Road)
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301
(910) 484-4266
(Founded ca 1870)***

Gardners Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church **(Formerly: The Gardners Circuit)**

Gardners Chapel was founded under the leadership of the Murphys, Gardners, Underwoods, Elliotts, Spearmans and many more pioneers in the Gardners community. The first wood-frame church, built before 1870 was located not far from the present church today. The Gardners family deeded the land to the church's trustee in 1879.

Gardners Chapel has been served by several pastors: Reverend Carroll, Reverend Spruill and Reverend Wadell were among the first. Since that time they have had more than thirty pastors.

The Church started as a circuit church with Wesley and Mt. Hebrew and was called the Gardners Circuit. After 1908, the circuit became Flea Hill Circuit including Flea Hill, Gardners and Wesley. In the early 1920s only Gardners and Flea Hill remained in the circuit. Gardners became a station church in the late 1940s and started having church services every Sunday.

In 1925, under the leadership of Rev. Fairley, an annexation was added to the church. The current pastor is Rev. Mary J. Jernigan.



**320 Hay Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina
(910) 483-2343
(Founded in 1808)**

Hay Street United Methodist Church

Methodists in Fayetteville were organized as far back as 1808 when there was a Meeting House on Spring Street. The famed circuit rider Francis Asbury preached at a Methodist Meeting House in Fayetteville in 1805 and 1806. Bishop Asbury accepted the congregation into the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1808.

The land on which the present structure stands was purchased and the church building was dedicated in June 1835. Built in a Gothic Revival Style, the present structure was completed in 1908. Beneath the present church is a section of the original foundation of the church built in 1835.

The sanctuary is very large and has memorial windows of unusual beauty. These stained glass windows in the sanctuary were made in Salisbury, England in 1907 and are considered a rare art form. The folds of the robes on the figures are actually blown into the glass. "Robing glass" is now considered a lost art. The brass chandeliers, once gas, are memorials and the quality of the brass makes them extremely handsome. The bell that hangs in the tower today is the one that was purchased in 1868. Hay Street Methodist members are particularly proud of the old silver dating back to 1835, consisting of a tankard and two communion cups. These items are housed in a glass cabinet at the church. It is of interest to note that the brick used in the construction of the present building were made by E.A. Poe in his brickyard on Cameron and Dick streets.

Old minutes are well preserved and have been microfilmed. They can be found in the Hall of History in Raleigh, NC.



***2760 Rosehill Road
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28302-2512
(910) 822-1083
(Founded in 1874)***

Haymount Presbyterian Church

Haymount Presbyterian Church was organized in May 1874 through the efforts of Dr. H. G. Hill, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville and the Rev. F. L. Montgomery, a black minister. Dr. Hill and Rev. Montgomery organized what was to become Haymount on the corner of Bradford Avenue and Branson Street on property owned by the federal government. The property on which the first church building was erected was sold by the federal government and the congregation then purchased a lot at the foot of Haymount Hill as the site for the new church.

The church had several leaders during the earlier years: Rev. F. L. Montgomery, Rev. Eli Walker and Dr. H. C. Mabry. Richard McNeill, Abram Pone, and Lewis Gill were the first Elders of Haymount. In 1905, under the leadership of Rev. T. T. Branch, the historic Haymount Hill edifice was erected. The architect and builder of the church was Dallas Perry, Sr., a noted craftsman in the Fayetteville area. His unique style and artistry were evidenced by the creative mixture of Gothic and Colonial architecture exhibited in the church structure. The church had a recessed double-paneled doorway, surrounded by paneling and surmounted by a square transom. Other details of the architectural style were the Gothic windows, dentil trim and scalloped facing to its three colonial dormers found on each side of the roof and in the steeples. On December 20, 1980, a fire from unknown causes completely destroyed the church.

The congregation continued to worship together until a new structure was completed on Rosehill Road in 1982. The first service in the new building was conducted on October 17, 1982. The present facility has a main sanctuary, classrooms, a library, an office complex, kitchen facilities and a fellowship hall.



***Route 1, Box 379
(Beard Road)
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301-9723
(910) 483-1988
(Founded in 1848)***

Lebanon Baptist Church

The history of Lebanon Baptist Church dates back 151 years. Originally known as Piney Grove Church, it was located about seven miles north of Fayetteville between the Atlantic Coastline Railroads and Cape Fear River Road. Within a few years, the location of the church was changed and a building was erected on Old Plank Road (presently Highway 301).

Rev. John M. Beasley was Piney Grove's first minister. The First Baptist Church of Fayetteville is considered to be the mother church of Piney Grove.

A sketch of the church built in 1881 shows typical features of churches of that era. It was a wooden structure with an overhead transom of colored glass and windows of clear glass. The first two structures were one-room buildings built with material and labor donated by the members. Sometime between 1905 and 1910, six Sunday School rooms were added on each side of the building creating a T-shaped structure.

At present Lebanon Baptist Church has 669 members with an average attendance of 231 in Sunday School each week. Lebanon has an outstanding music program and Youth Ministry.

Lebanon has continued to be a missionary church through the years. Its members have ministered in their local community, established three missions, and sent missionaries to foreign fields.



***3525 Cliffdale Road
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303
(910) 867-2113
(Founded in 1800)***

MacPherson Presbyterian Church

As far back as 1793, Angus McDiarmid was holding open-air services near the present site of MacPherson Church. By 1800 a building had been erected on five acres donated by Colin McPherson. In 1827, Fayetteville Presbytery had only seven preachers to service 39 churches. In 1854 McPherson asked to be dissolved; however, the Sunday School continued.

In 1867 former members reorganized McPherson. The Presbytery furnished supply ministers shared with two other churches. Despite the hard times of the Reconstruction Era and the depression of the late 1800s, women from nine Presbyterian churches formed a Mission Union in 1889, with Lizzie McPherson as vice-president.

Membership topped 100 in 1912. In the 1920s the name of the church gradually became "MacPherson" as two MacPherson wives urged the original Scot spelling.

In 1924 MacPherson women purchased a defunct one-room school. A new educational wing was dedicated in 1948. By 1960 the church had added a fellowship hall with additional classrooms and built a manse. The sanctuary was enlarged in 1982.

The first full-time pastor came in 1951. MacPherson helped start new churches in 1951, 1960 and 1987. MacPherson began partial support for a missionary in 1966. In 1979 the church adopted a Vietnamese refugee family and began actively supporting "Meals on Wheels." Since 1983 MacPherson has supported and participated in missionary work in Bangladesh, Haiti, Mexico and West Virginia as well as Africa and the Far East. MacPherson recently "adopted" a sister church in Oryel, Russia.



***Magnolia Church Road
Stedman, North Carolina 28391
(910) 483-4774
(Founded in 1858)***

Magnolia Baptist Church

On November 13, 1855, Randall McDaniel deeded two acres to William Bryant, Hardie Jones and Owen Jones, trustees for the Baptist Meeting House on Buck Creek. The original building, which was located in front of the present church building, was a frame structure and the house was simply weather boarded, but not sealed or plastered.

The earliest available records show that the church was functioning as an organization in 1858, and it is understood that 1858 was the year that the formal organization of the church took place. In that year, delegates were sent to the Cedar Creek Association with membership of the church reported as 56. Sunday School was first mentioned in 1865.

Construction of the present sanctuary was completed in 1970. During its history, the Magnolia Baptist Church facility has progressed from a one room, unheated wood structure to a spacious climate-controlled sanctuary along with a Sunday School annex, kitchen and fellowship hall. In 1995, a spacious new fellowship hall, kitchen and six classrooms were dedicated. Renovations are now underway in the old fellowship hall and kitchen.

Magnolia Baptist Church has grown from approximately 60 members in 1858 to 297 members in 1999. Services have increased from once a month to a full time schedule, including Sunday and Wednesday evening services.



**6470 NC Highway 87 South
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28306
(910) 484-8706
(Founded in 1873)**

Marvin United Methodist Church

Marvin United Methodist Church was organized in 1873. A wood frame structure was built on land donated by James Marsh, a Baptist, and Neill McQueen, a Presbyterian. Each gave half the land, and the church was situated on the old property line of the two estates.

The church was named after Bishop Enoch Mather Marvin of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, who was born in 1823 and died in St. Louis, Missouri in 1877.

James Cain, a lay pastor, led the church from 1873 until 1880. It was in 1880 that the Methodist Conference took control of the church and property and sent Rev. C. M. Gentry to serve as pastor.

Over the years Marvin Church has grown from being one church among many on a multi-point charge to being a single station church. With the leadership of its present minister, the Rev. Curtis M. Mull Jr., Marvin United Methodist continues to do what it does best—bringing God's Word to God's People.



**118 Johnson Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303
(910) 868-2770
(Founded in 1860)**

Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church

Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1860. Burton, Adeline, and Katie Moore Jones provided the land. Mount Olive consisted of many families: *the Longs, McKoys, Dudleys, Butlers, Willeys, Georges, Baldwins, Montagues, Smiths, Harts, Wells, Maynors, Evans, Youngs, Carvers, McPhersons, Buxtons, and Jones's.*

In the early days the minister and the congregation were all served from the same Communion Glass. On Communion Sundays each member gave one penny to the Poor's Collection.

During the early years the following Pastors rendered untiring services to Mount Olive's development: *Timon Council, Oliver Watkins, E. D. Womack, William Allen, J. C. Williams, George Burney, W. H. Rhone, James Smith, Lonnie Raeford, J. R. McNair, Sylvester Avery, and Edmond Council.*

Then came Rev. Sandy McDonald, Rev. Julius Butler, and Rev. James Everett, Rev. (Dr.) Maurice B. Hayes, Rev. Edward Jones, Rev. Ronald Swain, and Rev. Perry B. Irby, in chronological order. The present sanctuary was built in 1982 on a site donated by Jason. W. Jones. The Gospel Choir was re-organized at that time and the Christian Education Department, Mass Choir, Bible Study Class, Youth Community Missionary Circles, New Members Orientation, and a Church Sports Program were added.

The present pastor of Mount Olive is Rev. Carl E. Brinkley, Jr. During his tenure the Missionary and Christian Education Departments have expanded with Singles, Couples and Seniors Ministries, a Tape Ministry and a summer reading program.



***Butler Nursery Road
Hope Mills, North Carolina 28348
(910) 485-5681
(Founded in 1874)***

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church

In 1874, Dave Murphy and wife conveyed a half acre of land for the church site to Marshall Hall and Lauchlin J. McLean, trustees for the Baptist Church. In April 1875 Reverends J. M. Beasley, R. Newton, and R. A. Moore organized a church and Sunday School with nineteen members. The name Mt. Pisgah was inspired by Deuteronomy 3:27.

By 1897 Mount Pisgah had five deacons. In 1906 Sunday's collection was taken up for the Baptist Orphanages. The church began a Protracted Meeting (revival) in 1907. Sunday night services and the Baptist Young People's Union began in 1914 or shortly thereafter. Sunbeam Missionary Society was organized in 1918.

In 1939 baptismal services were held at Rockfish Creek and Truesdale's millpond. It was also in 1939 that electric lights were installed and Mount Pisgah gave its kerosene lamps to Bethlehem Church. Vacation Bible School started in 1950. Family Night began as Mission Night in 1952. The new sanctuary was dedicated in 1964. In 1974, Mount Pisgah's centennial year, church membership was 395.

To raise money for scholarship funds at Campbell University, the first annual Spring Festival was held in 1988. In 1989 the sanctuary was repaired and the church steeple replaced due to a lightning strike. In 1997 classroom space was renovated and a new fellowship hall was dedicated "to God and the building of Christian families."



***244 Slocumb Road
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311
(910) 488-9050
(Founded in 1858)***

Piney Grove Freewill Baptist Church

Originally known as Piney Grove Church, Piney Grove F.W.B. Church has served the community of Carver's Creek Township since 1858. The first church was a building on an acre of land east of the Cape Fear River, donated by George W. Lawrence. The church building was replaced several times due to fire, storm, and old age.

The building, completed in 1933 with planks made of trees felled by Dan Blue, Dan Elliott and others, is the sanctuary to this day albeit with many renovations.

It is believed that there have been fourteen pastors of Piney Grove since 1865. In 1925 Rev. Jimmy McLean became pastor. During Rev. McLean's tenure the Mother's Board, Mission Circle, Building Fund Committee and Chorus were started. When Rev. G. L. Elliott became pastor in 1940, organizations such as the Women's Home Mission, YPCL, Gospel, Adult, and Young Adult Choirs, and the Usher Board were established. When Rev. Elliott retired in 1982, Piney Grove received Rev. William Thomas "Tommy" Ford as pastor. During Rev. Ford's time, the sanctuary was renovated and the present Fellowship Hall was built. Under Rev. Ford's leadership ten ministers were ordained and many new organizations started, such as Senior Citizen Committee, Children's Church, Mass Choir, and the Scholarship Committee. Elder Kirby Haire became pastor in 1990. He has been diligently moving Piney Grove forward.



**121 Lofton Drive
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311
(910) 488-4648
(Founded ca 1840)**

Saint Andrews United Methodist Church

St. Andrews was built in 1848 on land donated by Malcolm J. Buie. Malcolm and Duncan Buie, Foster Mason, Peter Bolton, and Nathan and Henry King built the traditional frame building with center aisle poles which separated the men from the women. In the early years the pastor was in charge of ten or more churches, and probably preached at each church only once every two months. St. Andrews managed to maintain a Sunday School even during the Civil War.

The McDuffie–Buie Cemetery and the St. Andrews Church Cemetery contain the remains of many of the early members of the church. While Rev. Isaac Avent was pastor in 1876, he enlisted many new members. George A. McKay was elected a trustee of the church in 1870 and represented St. Andrews at the Fayetteville district Conference in 1873.

The original church building has disappeared, but its replacement, built in 1910, is still in use. Renovated with funds raised by the church women's "thrift store," the building has a meeting room, bible study /chapel, library and 24-hour prayer room.

The main building, composed of a sanctuary and educational wing, opened in 1966 under the pastorate of Rev. Paul Scott. The Fellowship Hall was added in 1983. In 1996 a Family Life Center was added to the front of the Fellowship Hall wing.

St. Andrews, a Methodist stronghold, continues to "grow and change while remaining a beacon upon a hill to give glory to our Father in Heaven."



***1204 Woodland Drive
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28305
(910) 483-3274
(Founded in 1895)***

Saint John A.M.E. Zion Church

St. John has its roots in the early Fayetteville community bordered by Murchison Road, Rowan Street, and Oakridge Avenue called "New Town" where about 30 families of various denominations lived. The churches attended by these families were far from their homes. Lack of transportation hindered the very young and the elderly from attending worship services as often as they desired, so Mrs. Elsie Wright began holding Sunday School classes at her home.

The Sunday School flourished. Ministers and laymen from all denominations were invited to preach, instruct, and encourage the group. One of the ministers was Rev. Alex Johnson, who later served as the first pastor of St. John. Under his leadership the present edifice was established, although it has been enlarged and renovated over the years. In 1905 the cornerstone of the church was laid. Members of St. John today are largely the children and grandchildren of the original charter members and founders of the church.

Following Rev. Johnson was an honor roll of dedicated ministers. For the past seven years St. John A. M. E. Zion has been blessed with the leadership of Rev. Thurman Rhodes.



**302 Green Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28302
(910) 483-7405
(Founded in 1817)**

Saint John's Episcopal Church

Saint John's, Fayetteville's first Episcopal Church, was formally organized April 7, 1817, under the leadership of the first rector, Rev. Bethel Judd, and the first senior warden, John Winslow. At the organizing convention April 24, 1817, North Carolina became a diocese and Saint John's became a parish. The cornerstone was laid on the present site by the local chapter of the Masonic Order in June of 1817. April 17, 1819, the Bishop of Virginia, Rt. Rev. Richard Channing Moore, acting for the Bishop of North Carolina, consecrated the church building and confirmed forty-eight people. In 1824 two chalices and the paten for Holy Communion Services were made from "coin" spoons donated by the ladies of the parish.

Saint John's Church was destroyed by the Great Fire May 29, 1831. The interior of the church was restored, conforming to the original plans. The tall, stately spire was replaced by the present multiple pylons. The new church building was consecrated January 13, 1833 by the Rt. Rev. Levi Stillman Ives, second Bishop of North Carolina. During the Civil War Saint John's donated its original bell to the Confederacy.

The cornerstone of the first Parish House was laid in 1896. That building was razed in 1965. The cornerstone of the second Parish House was laid on Saint John's Day, December 27, 1966. The Chapel of the Beloved Disciple of Saint John's Church, incorporated in the plans of the second Parish House, was dedicated May 22, 1966.

From its founding in the Spring of 1817, seventeen rectors have led Saint John's Parish.



***509 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301
(910) 323-0161
(Founded in 1873)***

Saint Joseph's Episcopal Church

St. Joseph's congregation, having separated from St. John's Episcopal Church, was organized with the help of Rev. Joseph Caldwell Huske, and officially chartered in 1873. It is the second oldest Episcopal congregation in Fayetteville. Rev. Huske became St. Joseph's first Rector after his retirement from St. John's Church. The congregation first rented a small church at the foot of Haymont Hill and later worshiped at a site on the north side of Russell between Gillespie and Anderson Streets. The present property was bought and the church was built in 1896 with proceeds from the sale of the property on Russell Street and the financial help of Mrs. Eva Cochran, through the efforts of Rev. Huske and Miss Charlotte McNeill. The present church, with antique organ and exquisite Tiffany stained glass Resurrection Windows, was consecrated March 28, 1897.

In the late 1860's, many of the people who became founding members of St. Joseph's were involved in starting Howard School, which is now Fayetteville State University. St. Joseph's Parochial School was one of the first formalized centers of education for people of African ancestry.

Over the years, St. Joseph's parishioners have made the facilities available to the U.S.O., the N.A.A.C.P., the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, Fayetteville City Schools, and the City of Fayetteville Parks and Recreation Dept. In keeping with its history of public service, St. Joseph's provides a nourishing breakfast to the homeless and needy six days a week. On June 1, 1982, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church complex was entered in the National Register of Historic Places.



**522 Hillsboro Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301
(910) 485-7794
(Founded in 1879)**

Saint Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church

Approximately a decade after the Civil War, a small band of devout people gathered regularly at the home of Mrs. Amanda Thomas, in southeast Fayetteville, for prayer, exhortation, comfort and charity. Dedicated to redemption, these devout people longed for a leader to minister unto them.

Bishop D.A. Payne, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church sent the Rev. J.E.C. Barham. In September 1879 Rev. Barham organized Saint Luke A.M.E. Church in McKeithan's Hall with thirty members. In 1881 the congregation purchased a lot for \$85.00 on Hay Street, next to where the Radisson Prince Charles Hotel now stands, and the church was built.

The congregation worshiped in the church built on Hay Street until Rev. Adam Smith sold it in 1917. The church moved to a new building on Cashwell Street in 1918, where the congregation worshiped until 1978.

With the growth of the congregation more space was needed, so Rev. H. L. Ingram and the trustees purchased a plot of land on Hillsboro Street. There they built the Educational Center which opened in 1978. The congregation worshiped in the Educational Center until the completion of the new sanctuary on Hillsboro Street in 1980.

In May, 1990, Rev. Sheridan A. Knight was appointed pastor. Under his leadership Saint Luke A.M.E. Church has expanded its outreach to the community with projects such as the Hillsboro Street/A.M.E. Anvil After School Academy.



***2840 Village Drive
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28304
(910) 323-2410
(Founded in 1829)***

Saint Patrick's Church

When Bishop England visited Fayetteville in 1821 he found 12 Catholics led by John Kelly. On February 4, 1824, Bishop England formally organized the Catholic community of Fayetteville into the first parish in North Carolina and placed it under the protection of Saint Patrick. The parishioners worshiped in a converted warehouse until Kelly donated a piece of land on Bow Street and the first Saint Patrick's Church was built. On Tuesday, March 17, 1829, Bishop England celebrated the dedication and solemn blessing of Saint Patrick's Church, which was the first Roman Catholic sanctuary dedicated in North Carolina.

In the early years no permanent pastor was available, so Sunday Mass was only said about every three months by traveling missionaries who also heard confessions. In between these Masses, lay leaders conducted services. Unfortunately the small chapel and all church records were destroyed in Fayetteville's Great Fire of 1831. The second church structure, which served parish members for more than 100 years, was near the same site at historic Liberty Point. It was not until 1867 that Saint Patrick's was assigned a priest full-time, Father James Gibbons. In 1936 Saint Patrick's had 120 parishioners and relocated to Arsenal Avenue. During the time on Arsenal Avenue, Saint Patrick's opened its first school on Haymount Hill. The congregation moved to its present location on Village Drive in 1963, and the school building joined the church at this location 25 years later. The congregation today numbers about 4,500. Under the leadership of Pastor John R. Kelly, the congregation continues to grow in faith as well as numbers.



2171 Middle Road
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301
(910) 483-8959
(Founded in 1848)

Salem United Methodist Church

Salem is the ancient name for Jerusalem. Circuit rider preachers held services on the present site as early as 1840. Following the “big camp meeting” in 1848, people gathered under the trees to praise God and Salem Church was founded. By 1852 Salem established a Sunday School. It was not until 1958 that Salem had a pastor all its own.

The “**Meeting House**” a one room wooden building with two doors and a center rail separating men and boys from women and girls, was erected in 1850. It was remodeled several times before it was sold and removed in 1958. In the late 1950s Salem's new sanctuary, pastor's study, choir room and educational wing were completed. In the 1990s Salem added a new wing and a paved and lighted parking lot. The new bell tower houses the bell that Mr. Love McLaurin gave Salem in the 1800s.

Salem organized a Women's Missionary Society in 1927. Since 1974 Salem women have participated in United Methodist Women. United Methodist Men, a service organization, was started in 1951. The Epworth League began in 1929 and evolved into the United Methodist Youth Fellowship of today. Salem's thriving Senior Citizens' group was formed in 1974. Music has always been an important part of worship at Salem, from the days when a home organ was brought to the church in a wagon on Sundays, to the present with eight choirs, Shulmerich handbells, a grand piano, an Allen organ, hand chimes and a carillon.



***4654 Linden Road
Linden, North Carolina 28356
(Founded in 1816)***

Sardis Presbyterian Church

Sardis Presbyterian was organized on May 5, 1816 by twenty-seven dedicated Christians who met for worship at Hodges Meeting House on the bank of Little River. In about 1830 "Old Sardis," as it is called now, was built about a quarter mile from the original building. The cemetery there bears the names of many of those first founders. Sardis commemorated its centennial anniversary on May 7, 1916, by dedicating the present structure in the town of Linden. In 1985 the present manse was built adjacent to the church.

The first minister, Rev. Cohn McIver, was from Scotland, and delivered his sermons in both Gaelic and English. On a trip to Washington, D.C., in 1819, Rev. McIver collected \$293.00 to build the church, including donations from President James Monroe, Ambassador George Washington Campbell, and Secretary of State John Quincy Adams. Pictures of all 23 preachers Sardis has had over its 183 years hang in the church narthex. Dr. W. F. Bateman is now serving as an interim minister.

Sardis has an active Sunday School, Youth Group, Presbyterian Women's group and sponsors the Linden Christian Men's Fellowship. Homecoming is held each year on the first Sunday in May with dinner on the grounds.

Sardis has always been a small church but it has survived through many wars, floods and winds. Sardis kept its door open during the Civil War, held services during the flood of 1945 and met to thank God for His blessings after Hurricane Fran toppled 100 year old pine trees in the church yard in 1996.



***522 Old Wilmington Road
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301
(910) 483-5925
(Founded in 1886)***

Second Missionary Baptist Church

Second Missionary Baptist Church began as an outgrowth of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in 1886 when Rev. Henry Adams saw the need for a Baptist church in the Wilmington Road Area. Worship service was begun in the Old Holcumb House on Highway 87 South.

In 1933 when Rev. Charles E. Perry was elected pastor, the church was on Wright Street. By 1940 a new wooden church building was erected at 522 Old Wilmington Road. During Rev. Perry's pastorate the membership grew, an Education Department and cafeteria were built and the church purchased its first bus. When Rev. Perry resigned in 1965, Rev. Willie E. Beamon became pastor. In addition to expanding the church building, paying off the mortgage and hiring a full time secretary, Rev. Beamon worked diligently to take religion beyond the walls of the church and the church grew tremendously.

Upon Rev. Beamon's death, Rev. Ivory E. Swann became pastor. Under Rev. Swann a clothes closet and food bank have been established, a constitution written, two vans purchased, the parking lot paved, a minister of music hired, and ground has been broken for a new church building to be erected early in the 21st century.



Elizabethtown Road (Hwy 87)
Hope Mills, North Carolina 28348
(910) 323-1751
(Founded in 1874)

Sherwood Presbyterian Church

Sherwood Presbyterian church was organized February 16, 1874 by a committee of Fayetteville Presbytery. Thirty members were dismissed from the closest Presbyterian church, Big Rockfish, to form the new church of Sherwood at a site known then as Swamp Station. Sherwood had no pastor until 1918, when a minister was called to serve the "Hope Mills Group" of churches. Sherwood was in a group of four churches: McPherson, Circle Court, Comfort and Sherwood. McPherson and Circle Court were withdrawn, leaving the remaining churches without a pastor or manse. Big Rockfish joined with Sherwood and Comfort, and Sherwood built a manse in 1951.

The church building was destroyed by fire April 2, 1927. The Baptist and Methodist churches invited Sherwood to use their buildings for services until a new church could be built. Unfortunately all the funds for rebuilding were in the National Bank of Fayetteville when it closed its doors in August 1927, but the spirit of God's people was not broken and the first service was held in the new building March 18, 1928.

In 1967 the first woman elder was ordained and installed. By 1968 the members of Sherwood Church felt they were strong enough to call their first full time pastor.

Nearly continuous additions and improvements have been made to the church building since the 1950's. In 1961 land was given for a cemetery. In 1964 a steeple and donated bell were installed. Funds given in memory of a son of the church were used to purchase stained glass windows which were installed and dedicated in 1986. In 1997 the fellowship hall, kitchen and Sunday School rooms were remodeled.



**5760 Yadkin Road
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303
(910) 867-2708
(Founded in 1835)**

Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church

The roots of this church extend back to 1835, when a faithful group of God-fearing Black people came together to worship God in their own way even before slavery was abolished. In 1850 these people set up a brush shelter in the area of Beaver Creek and, according to all indications, they called it "Beaver Creek Chapel." In a recorded deed dated November 18, 1873, Henry McDonald sold a piece of land to Beaver Creek Chapel. The deed was signed by Issac McDonald, Thomas McKoy, Issac Baker and Robert Kelly, trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of America.

The inscription on an antique bell, which was in use until 1976, shows that Rev. M. N. Levy was Pastor of Beaver Creek Chapel when the bell was purchased in 1887. In 1976 a new sanctuary was built and the educational wing was remodeled. November 9, 1976, the name of the church was changed to Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church in recognition of the Black African, Simon of Cyrene, who carried the cross of Jesus up to Calvary when Christ became physically exhausted. In 1994 Simon Temple hosted the 114th session of the Central North Carolina Conference.

Many ministries have been added in less than a decade: Children's Church, Youth on a Mission, Nursery for infants and toddlers, Meals on Wheels, the PRAISE Project, Economic Empowerment and Scouting. There are presently eight choirs. In the summer of 1998 the Christian Development Center Preschool and Before/After School Program opened. The members of Simon Temple A.M.E Zion Church are thankful to be part of "the freedom church" of Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman.



***Tabor Church Road
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301
(910) 484-4274
(Founded in 1831)***

Tabor United Methodist Church

Tabor United Methodist Church, originally called Terabinith Church, was built in Cedar Creek on the Cape Fear River in 1831. The Terabinith cemetery was located near the Cedar Creek Baptist Church on land which is currently owned by Mr. Red Johnson. In 1844 the Methodist Episcopal Church became split as a result of controversy over slavery. The church was renamed Mt. Tabor Methodist Church and became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South until 1939.

In 1880 Mr. & Mrs. Murdock Maxwell sold two acres of land to William McNatt, a trustee of Terabinith Methodist Church. The church, which at that time had only eighteen members and a circuit rider minister, became known as McNatt's Church. A Sunday School was organized in 1885. E. J. Edwards was assigned as the first regular pastor of McNatt's Church in 1888.

The name "Tabor" pertains to tar, pitch and turpentine, which were the main industries in that area at the time. The church building is believed to be one of the oldest in the area to still be used regularly for worship services. The stained glass windows in Tabor United Methodist are from Gray's Chapel, which was consolidated with Mt. Tabor Church in 1923. A covered porch was added in 1970, the Clarence Pugh Fellowship Hall was completed in 1977, and a steeple was added to the sanctuary in 1982.

Tabor United Methodist Church is presently 168 years old, has sixty-six members, and continues to serve the people of the community.



***US Highway 301 South
Hope Mills, North Carolina 28348
(910) 424-2196
(Founded in 1881)***

Union Oak A.M.E. Zion Church

Union Oak Church was established September 3, 1881 with the motto "If I can conceive it, and believe it, I can achieve it," when Mr. Ephraim McNair and his wife Carolina gave a section of their land to the church. Union Oak is in the Rockfish Township of Hope Mills. The first church, built in the 1880s, stood where the present building now stands. The second church stood in a grove of oak trees which corresponded to the name "***Union Oak.***"

In the late 1930s, Rev. L. J. Dockery initiated worship service every first and third Sunday. After a groundbreaking service in 1960, Mr. Howard Williams and Mr. Ben Campbell began the work of building a new church. A Fellowship Hall was added in 1972, under Rev. C. T. Williams. In 1974 Union Oak became a station church. Many renovations were made in the late 1970s, including adding a steeple, paving the parking lot and bricking the church building. Physical improvements continued in the 1980s when a church annex was added and a stove and copy machine were purchased. During the 1990s church membership has grown dramatically. Several pastors have worked successfully to restore the spiritual unity of the church, as well as making more additions and improvements. In 1996 The Progressive Women's Club was formed, The Howard Williams Sunday School Attendance Day was established, and Hurricane Fran knocked down the steeple, which was then replaced in 1997. At the annual conference in 1997 Rev. Chauncey L. McDonald received the charge for Union Oak A.M.E. Zion Church.

Foundation Dates of Historical Churches in this Guide

1. Bluff Presbyterian Church	1758
2. Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church	1796
3. First Presbyterian Church	1800
4. MacPherson Presbyterian Church	1800
5. Hay Street United Methodist Church	1808
6. Sardis Presbyterian Church	1816
7. Saint John's Episcopal Church	1817
8. Galatia Presbyterian Church	1825
9. Saint Patrick's Church	1829
10. Tabor United Methodist Church	1831
11. Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church	1835
12. First Baptist Church (Anderson Street)	1837
13. Saint Andrews United Methodist Church	1840
14. Lebanon Baptist Church	1848
15. Salem United Methodist	1848
16. Magnolia Church	1858
17. Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church	1858
18. Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church	1860
19. Campground United Methodist Church	1862
20. First Baptist Church (Moore Street)	1868
21. Gardners Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church	1870
22. Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church	1872
23. Marvin United Methodist Church	1873
24. Saint Joseph's Episcopal Church	1873
25. Haymount Presbyterian Church	1874
26. Mount Pisgah Baptist Church	1874
27. Sherwood Presbyterian Church	1874
28. Black's Chapel United Methodist Church	1876
29. Cedar Falls Baptist Church	1878
30. Saint Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church	1879
31. Union Oak A.M.E. Zion Church	1881
32. Bethel A..M.E. Zion Church	1883
33. Second Missionary Baptist Church	1886
34. Cotton United Methodist Church	1890
35. Cumberland Union Free Will Baptist Church	1890
36. Saint John A.M.E. Zion Church	1895
37. Baywood Pentecostal Holiness Church	1898
38. Culbreth Memorial Pentecostal Holiness Church	1898

